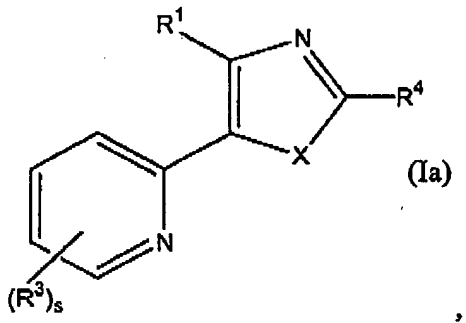
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (Ia):

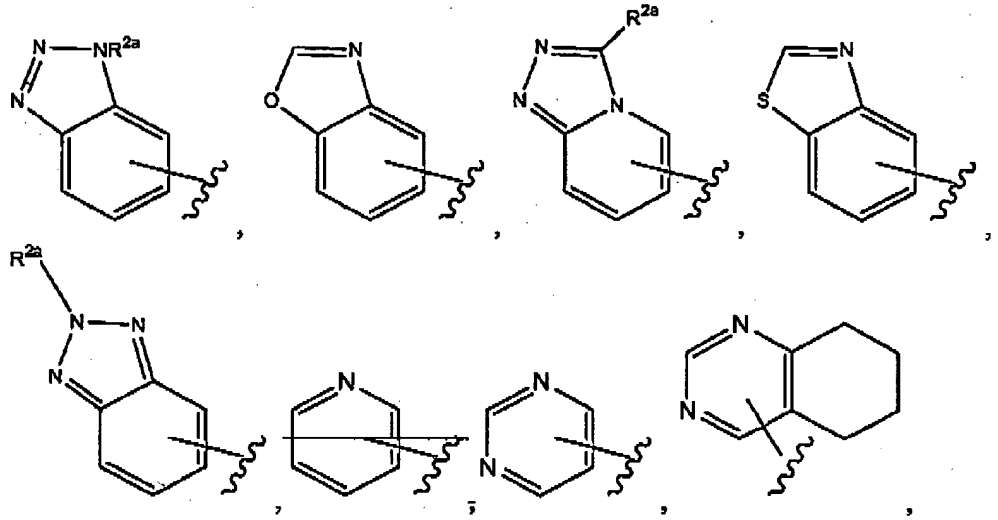


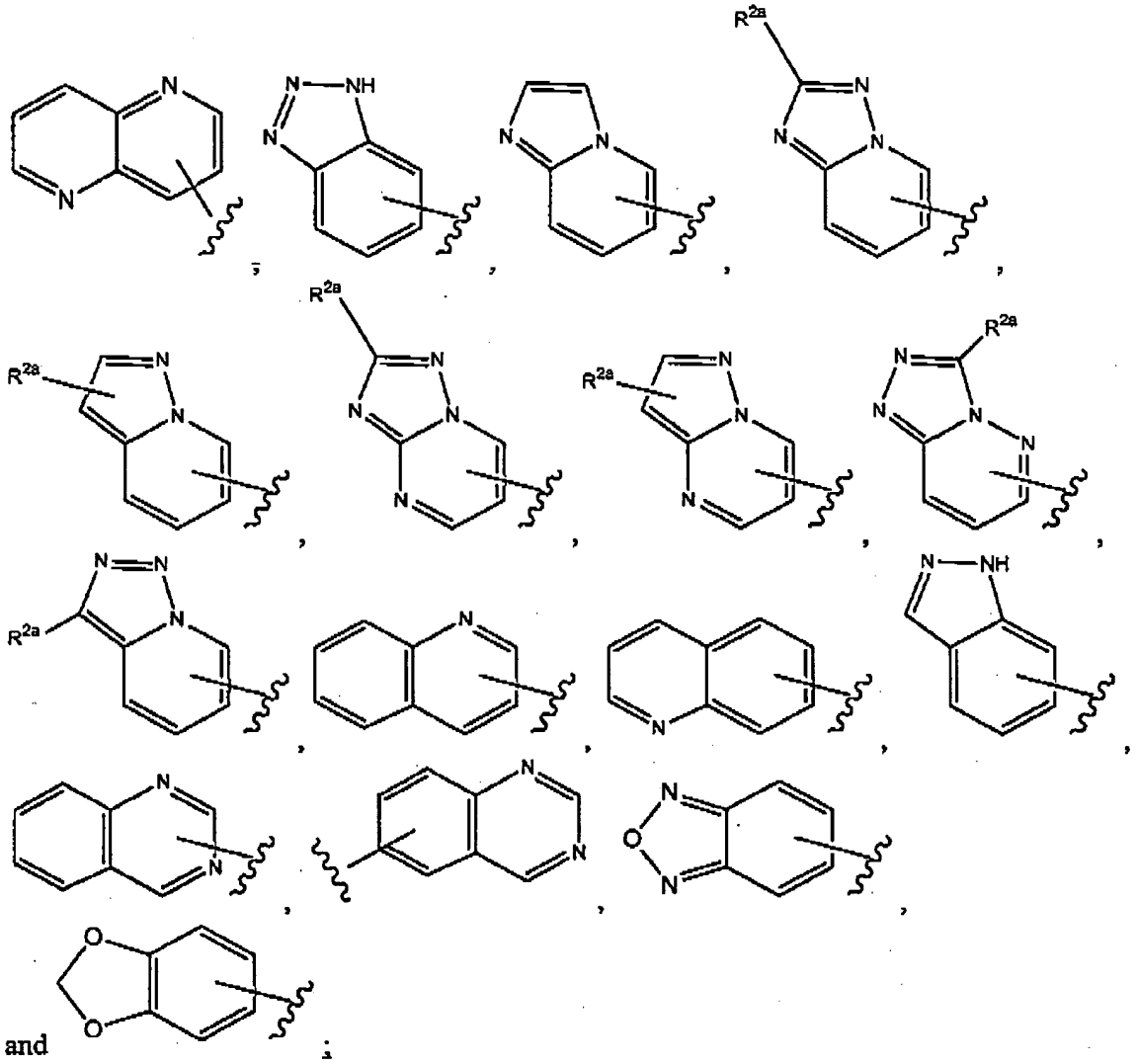
(Ia)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, tautomer or solvate thereof, wherein:

X is ~~O or~~ S;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of





where R^{2a} is independently selected from the group consisting of: $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylaryl, amino, carbonyl, carboxyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, nitro, halo, hydroxyl, and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ester, ~~and~~ where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, amino, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, and alkoxy of R^{2a} is optionally substituted by at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, formyl, NC-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-,

phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, O_2N-, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-[(C_1-C_6)alkyl-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (phenyl-)$_2$N-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-[(alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, phenyl-SO_2-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)ester-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H_2N-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, and (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-;
wherein R^1 can optionally be further independently substituted with at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of: carbonyl, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, hydroxy, oxo, ~~mercapto,~~ (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_5-C_{10})aryl, ~~or~~ (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxy, ~~or~~ (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryloxy, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkyl, ~~or~~ (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, ~~or~~ (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, HO-(C=O)-, ~~ester,~~ amido, ~~ether,~~ amino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, ~~and~~ di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, cyano, nitro, carbamoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylcarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})arylcarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl, and (C_5-C_{10})arylsulfonyl;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, Ph(CH_2)$_{1-6}$HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-

C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[(C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^3 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo, H_2N-, Ph(CH_2)$_{1-6}$HN-, and (C_1-C_6)alkylHN-;

s is an integer from one to five;

R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, Ph(CH_2)$_{1-6}$HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylHN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O- ;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^4 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo, H_2N-, Ph(CH_2)$_{1-6}$HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylHN-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl and (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl;

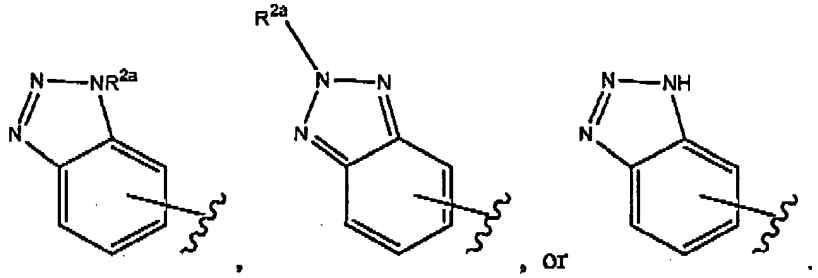
with the proviso that when R^4 is a substituted phenyl moiety, then (a) R^1 is not naphthyl, phenyl or anthracenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic

ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted;

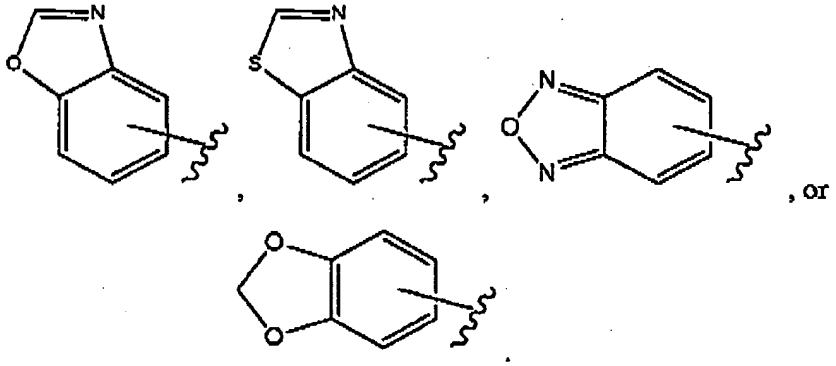
with the proviso that when R^4 is NH_2 and X is S, then R^1 is not an amino-substituted ~~pyridyl or~~ pyrimidinyl moiety; and

with the proviso that when in formula (Ia) R^4 is CH_3 and X is S, R^1 is not a 3,4-dimethoxy substituted phenyl moiety.

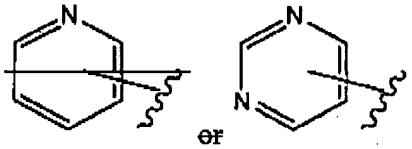
2. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



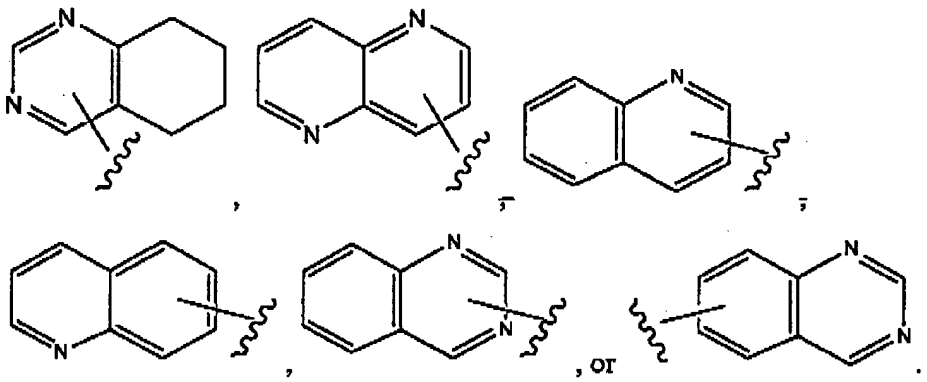
3. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



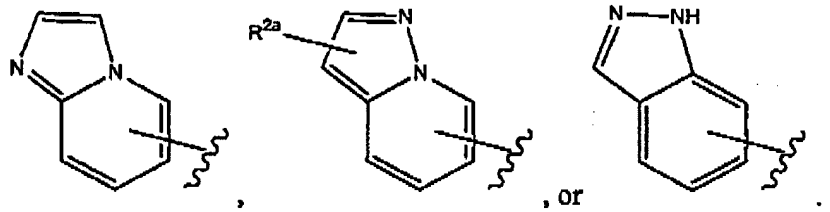
4. (currently amended) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



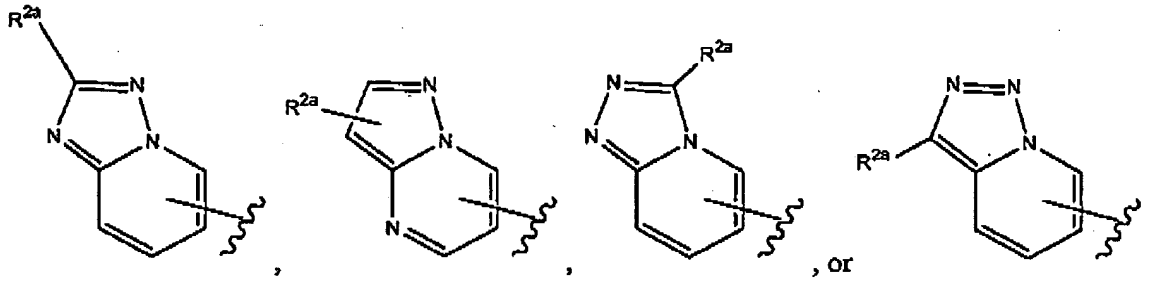
5. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



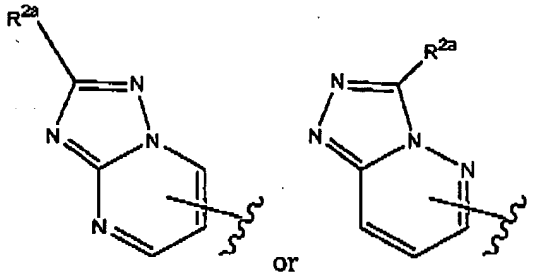
6. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



7. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



8. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



or

9. (canceled).

10. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein X is S; s is one to two; R^3 is hydrogen or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl; and R^4 is H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, or amino.

11. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12-13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A compound selected from the groups consisting of

~~2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;~~

~~2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-pyridine;~~

~~2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-methoxy-pyridine;~~

~~2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyridine;~~

~~2-Methyl-5-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;~~

~~4-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline;~~

~~1-Methyl-6-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;~~

~~6-(4-Pyridin-2-yl-oxazol-5-yl)-quinoxaline;~~

~~6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;~~

~~6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline;~~

~~6-(4-pyridin-2-yl-oxazol-5-yl)-quinoline;~~

~~2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-ethyl-pyridine;~~

~~2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-propyl-pyridine;~~

~~6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-benzothiazole;~~

~~2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;~~

~~4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;~~

~~1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;~~

~~2-Methyl-5-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;~~

~~6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;~~

~~6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;~~

~~2-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;~~

~~{4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

~~2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-oxazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;~~

~~1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;~~

~~2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;~~

~~6-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;~~

~~6-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;~~

~~2-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;~~

~~{4-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

~~4-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;~~

4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-quinolin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-quinoxalin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-[1,5]naphthyridin-2-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

~~{4-[2-Amino-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-quinolin-4-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-5-quinolin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-5-quinoxalin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-5-[1,5]naphthyridin-2-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

~~{4-[2-Amino-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-5-quinolin-4-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

~~6-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline;~~

~~1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;~~

~~2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;~~

~~2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;~~

~~6-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;~~

~~2-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;~~

~~{4-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

~~4-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline;~~

1-Methyl-6-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-thiazol-4-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

~~{4-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

4-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-thiazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

~~{4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-6-methyl- pyridine;

6-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

~~{4-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

4-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

6-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-thiazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

~~{4-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

4-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline; and

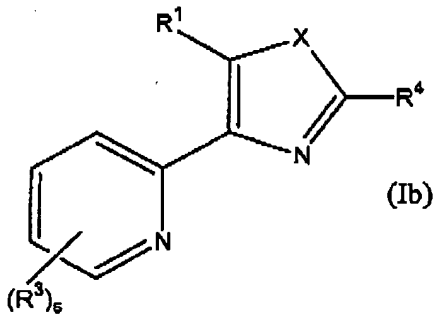
6-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A compound of formula (Ib):

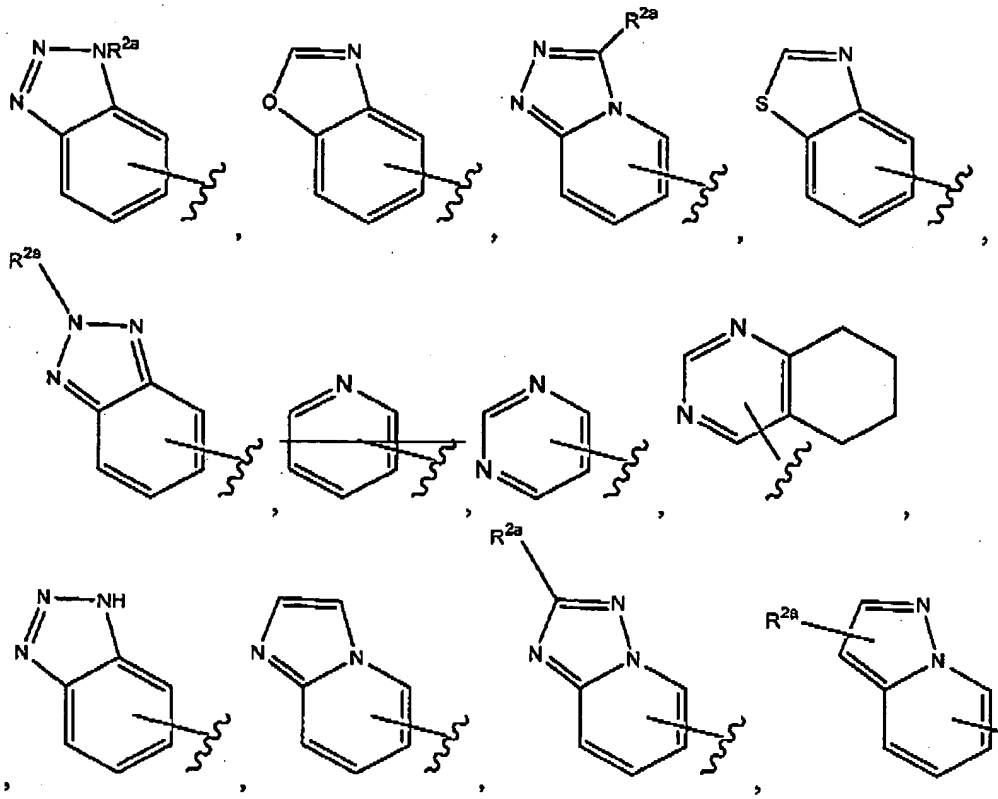


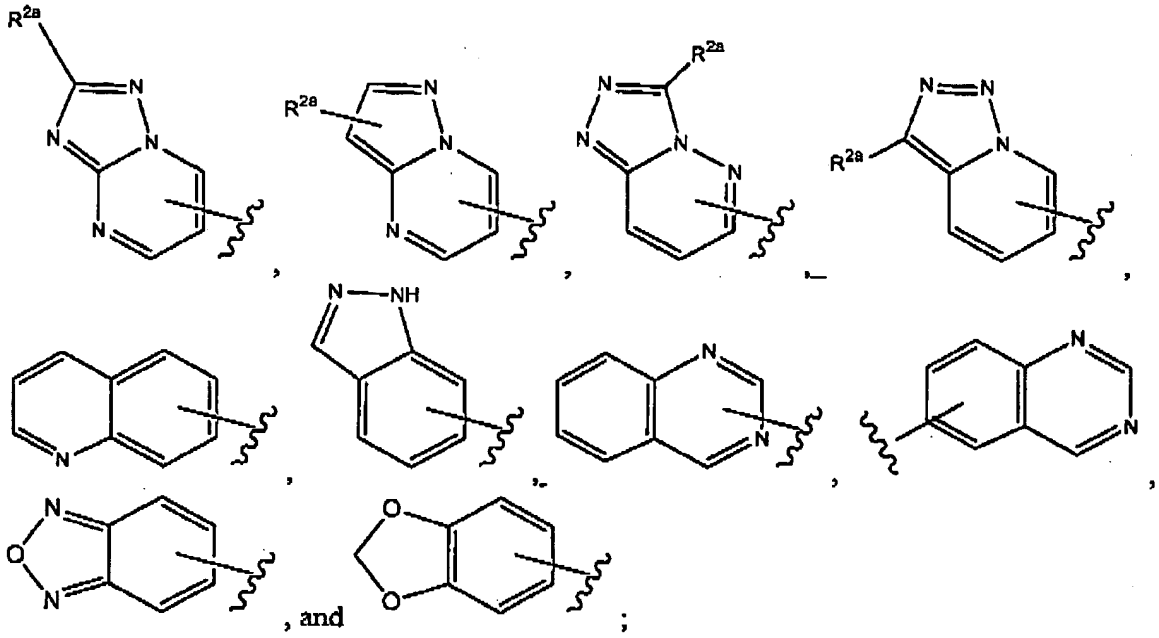
(Ib)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, tautomer or solvate thereof, wherein:

X is S;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of





where R^{2a} is independently selected from the group consisting of: $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylaryl, amino, carbonyl, carboxyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, nitro, halo, hydroxyl, and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ester, ~~and~~ where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, amino, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, and alkoxy of R^{2a} is optionally substituted by at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, formyl, NC-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, O_2N-, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[($(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$N-(C=O)-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, $(\text{phenyl})_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $(\text{phenyl-})_2$N-(C=O)-[($(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-[($(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-[(alkyl)-N]-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-,

phenyl-SO_2-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)ester-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H_2N-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, and (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-;

wherein R^1 can optionally be further independently substituted with at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of: carbonyl, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, hydroxy, oxo, ~~mercapto,~~ (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_5-C_{10})aryl, ~~or~~ (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxy, ~~or~~ (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryloxy, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkyl, ~~or~~ (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, ~~or~~ (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, HO-(C=O)-, ~~ester,~~ amido, ~~ether,~~ amino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, ~~and~~ di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, cyano, nitro, carbamoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylcarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})arylcarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl, and (C_5-C_{10})arylsulfonyl;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, Ph(CH_2)$_{1-6}$HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^3 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected

from $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo, H_2N-, Ph$(CH_2)_{1-6}$HN-, and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylHN-;

s is an integer from one to five;

R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, Ph$(CH_2)_{1-6}$HN-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylHN-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$)_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^4 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from the group consisting of $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo, H_2N-, Ph$(CH_2)_{1-6}$HN-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylHN-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl and $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclyl;

with the proviso that when R^4 is a substituted phenyl moiety, then (a) R^1 is not naphthyl, phenyl or anthracenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted.

19. (currently amended) A compound selected from the groups consisting of

~~2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;~~

~~4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;~~

~~1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;~~

~~2-Methyl-5-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;~~

~~6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;~~

~~6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;~~

~~2-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;~~

~~{4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

~~2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-oxazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;~~

~~1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;~~

~~2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;~~

~~6-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;~~

~~6-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;~~

~~2-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;~~

~~{4-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

~~4-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;~~

4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-quinolin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-quinoxalin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

~~{4-[2-Amino-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-thiazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

~~{4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-thiazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

~~{4-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

4-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline; and

6-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A compound selected from the groups consisting of

1-Methyl-6-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-thiazol-4-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

~~{4-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

4-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-6-methyl- pyridine;

6-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

~~{4-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;~~

4-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline; and

6-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. (currently amended) A compound selected from the groups consisting of

5-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine; and

4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-5-quinoxalin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.